

Message brought home
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ELK POINT REVIEW

Tuesday, January 17, 2006 vol. 26 no. 3
75 cents (GST incl.)

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Team ropers learn from the best

The Canadian Professional Rodeo Association's 2005 Team Roping champions, Travis Gallais (second from left) and Rocky Dallyn (not shown) put a crew of 11 heelers and seven headers through their paces at this weekend's three-day team roping workshop at C. G. Baker Memorial Arena. Gallais, who lives at Olds, and Dallyn, from Okotoks, also instructed a similar workshop here last year. After some groundwork in the basics and plenty of practice, the weekend wound up with a roping jackpot Sunday afternoon.

VICKI BROOKER PHOTO

Students, community learn crystal meth's dangers

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

"Don't be fooled," Elk Point Town councillor Thomas Kondla advised the students of F. G. Miller High School last Thursday afternoon as he welcomed them to the first of two community-based information meetings featuring RCMP Staff Sgt. Ian Sanderson and Sherwood Park resident Audrey Bjornstad.

"Crystal meth is real."

Kondla told the students that crystal meth use and addiction is growing at "an alarming rate" and urged them to learn from the presenters and "take this message home to your families."

"No matter what you do in life, there are consequences," Staff Sgt. Sanderson told the students. "The choices are yours. We're giving you this information so you can make an informed decision."

Sanderson's factual and graphic presentation dealt with the "club drugs," including the stimulant Ecstasy, which is also part of the methamphetamine family, the hallucinogen Ketamine and GHB, often known as the 'date rape drug,' as well as methamphetamine, of which one form is crystal meth. While these are often referred to as 'rave' or 'club' drugs, Sanderson said they "are not exclusive to the club scene, and the majority of young people at raves don't use them. The adults go [to clubs] for the drugs."

A Vancouver analysis of club drugs sold as Ecstasy showed that 22% used Ketamine, which was originally used as an anaesthetic, but produced psychotic episodes, as a filler, while 60% contained

methamphetamine. In Alberta, he said, the methamphetamine content increased to 76%.

"So, you don't know what you're taking," he concluded.

Even more potential danger comes from "trail mix," a combination of drugs which Sanderson said is a new trend, "and we don't know how these drugs interact."

Sanderson outlined the methods of use and the effects of the three other 'club' drugs before focusing on crystal meth, which he said, is "emerging as the number one drug problem around the world. It has surpassed cocaine, and is currently described as an epidemic in the US."

Methamphetamine has been around since the late 1880s. In the 1960s, one form was widely used as a diet drug, but Sanderson says the form popular today is a far different product. The current form is derived from ephedrine or pseudoephedrine and is a fat-soluble form more readily absorbed by the brain and having a longer-lasting effect. Crystal meth, the smokable form, "takes the fastest route to the brain," Sanderson said.

"It takes you very high, and you come down with a very hard crash."

The drug produces short-term effects which included talkativeness, dilated pupils which are slow to react to light, hyperactivity, an unpleasant body odor, decreased appetite, a pounding heart and euphoria. Long-term effects range from malnutrition, brain and liver damage to psychological conditions, strokes, coma and death.

Sanderson's graphic video showed another horrifying aspect,

as addicts picked away their skin in response to an itchy, crawling sensation known as 'meth bugs,' which afflicts many of them.

**"Drugs like this
can turn a town
this size upside down."**

- Staff Sgt.
Ian Sanderson

The second half of the presentation outlined the effect a crystal meth addiction can have on the family of an addict, and was given by Audrey Bjornstad. (Story, Page 3).

The two later spoke to a packed crowd at the public information session at the Seniors Recreation Centre.

Sanderson showed this group a number of video clips of a meth user weaving a destructive path through a community in a stolen military tank, of drug labs exploding and of young children being removed from homes where meth labs had been discovered. Many of those children had been living in

extremely toxic condition, and Sanderson said even the residue left after a drug lab had been removed could have serious effects on future residents of those structures.

The growth of crystal meth trafficking between 1998 and 2002 was "over 100% per year" in the west Yellowhead region, according to Sanderson, who said statistics show less crystal meth and more Ecstasy use in southern Alberta.

Sanderson said users are at risk "not only from the drug, but from the chemicals used to manufacture it," giving a brief rundown on the ingredients and process.

Sanderson said there is "no basis for the statement that one use will make you an addict. It depends on a whole bunch of factors, and you lose all credibility when you tell people that." However, he continued, "it doesn't matter how many times you use it, continued use will make you an addict. There's a hard crash at the end, and addicts become very wrecked people."

The RCMP 'K' Division's meth strategy includes a public awareness campaign and community

mobilization, which now involves 49 communities.

Chemical companies are being made aware of their potential role and have been instrumental in voluntary removal of ingredients used in drug manufacture from store shelves.

There is increased awareness in the policing community, as members learn what drug labs look like and how to protect themselves from exposure to the hazards they may encounter in investigations. Paramedics and other emergency responders also need to be aware of these hazards, Sanderson said.

Retailers are being made aware of their role in reducing the problem, and are being asked to keep an eye on their stock of items used in drug manufacture.

Exposure of children to drug labs is "child abuse," Sanderson said. "We're investigating it now, and legislation is coming as early as next month when we will be able to investigate and charge it as such." Labs have even been found under children's beds.

"We must do everything we can to prevent this," Sanderson said.

"Drugs like this can turn a town this size upside down. We'll do

Fur trade fun at Rendezvous 2006

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The festivities of the fur trade era will be return to Elk Point on Saturday, February 11 when the Friends of Fort George and Buckingham House and the Forts' advisory board host a gala Fur Trade Rendezvous in honor of Minister of Community Development, the Hon. Gary Mar.

Mar's office has confirmed the Minister's atten-

dance at the event, which will feature a dinner, historian Michael Payne with stories about the festivities of the fur trade, lively music by Walter Anderson and friends, Red River jig demonstrations and a silent auction of donated items.

Tickets went on sale last week for the event, which will be held at the Seniors Recreation Centre. Proceeds from the event will go toward enhancement of Fort George and Buckingham House Historic Site.

Albertans need strong representation: Ollikka

By Jay Gutteridge
Staff Writer

As the federal election campaign winds down, Westlock-St. Paul Liberal candidate Cory Ollikka says people are talking about the need for a change in Alberta.

"I think the key message I've been hearing from people in watching both campaigns — national and local — is the Conservatives are talking about voting for change, and in Alberta that means voting

for someone other than the Conservatives," says Ollikka. "People are tired of the negative opposition the Conservatives have done over the last 12 years. They want positive representation and positive opinions."

Westlock-St. Paul needs a strong voice representing rural Alberta, he says.

"I'm running for a party that's as likely if not more likely to form the government as the Conservatives, and we need representation on the government side of the house."

(Continued on Page 8)

Independent offers moral agenda, balanced representation

By Rachel de Waal
Staff Writer

An independent would have the best chance of equally representing people in the Westlock-St. Paul riding, says Clarence Schultz.

Schultz says he would have a balanced view of what people think because if he were elected he would

stay in touch with the other candidates.

"I believe there are some good inputs put forward by the other candidates," says Schultz. "I have already said that because we are a blended family that these people should all be represented. The way I would do that is to stay in contact with the other candidates."

As an independent, Schultz says he would be able to communicate with the other candidates without party backlash.

Schultz is concerned the subject of moral values hasn't been discussed in the local campaign.

(Continued on Page 8)

Green Party has solutions for future

By Kristi Patton
Staff Writer

If there is one message Green Party candidate for the Westlock-St. Paul riding Richard De Smet wants voters to think about it is finding solutions.

"The message of the Green Party has been throughout the election is that this election is about finding solutions for the problems that Canada faces in building a strong and sustainable society."

"The message that the Green Party and myself would like to send in the closing days of the election campaign is that Canada can find those solutions and we can deal with problems."

De Smet said there are solutions to environmental problems, farming and agriculture, and food independence by structuring policies to protect the small communities, towns and villages throughout Western Canada.

(Continued on Page 8)

Campaign brings forth major issues

By Vicki Brooker
Staff Writer

After visiting with voters across the Westlock - St. Paul riding, Conservative candidate Brian Storseth says several major issues have been brought forth.

"We need to find real solutions for our agricultural producers," Storseth says, noting that farmers' and ranchers across the region have come through "some very tough times" in recent years.

Despite their resiliency and skill at coping with adversity, he feels they deserve more federal help than they have received in the past.

Judicial reform is also a must, Storseth says.

"We need mandatory minimum sentences and real consequences for people who commit crimes." To assist with law enforcement, he suggests scrapping the gun registration "and putting the money toward filling RCMP vacancies."

(Continued on Page 8)

Independents have more choice

By Kristi Patton
Staff Writer

As an independent candidate in the Westlock-St. Paul riding, Werner Gisler wants voters to remember the greater choices they have.

"I have met some good people and there is an uneasiness," said Gisler of his campaign travels. "The change in government from one party to another is the root cause of the problem."

Gisler said the problems still won't get addressed because of the party system ethically it will be the same.

"To have proper parliamentary form it needs a lot of independent members to address constituency concerns then bring about change and to work for the betterment of all in this great country."

The independent candidate said not being aligned with a major party is an advantage because he doesn't have to fit into one specific way of thinking rather he has the option and ability to have a mind of his own.

(Continued on Page 8)

Candidate promises to stand up for the people

By Rachel de Waal
Staff Writer

Peter Opryshko says his life experience and ability to see the big picture make him the right choice for Westlock-St. Paul constituents.

"I've run before and I don't have stars in my eyes," says Opryshko. "I'm running for a party committed to people's issues and I can articulate ideas without rushing to speaking notes."

Opryshko says he would stand up for people who haven't adequately been represented in the riding, such as First Nations people, seniors and the farming community.

He would also address environmental issues and pursue alternative forms of energy such as solar and wind power.

Opryshko says while the Conservatives and Liberals have been scrapping with each other and not discussing relevant topics, the New Democrats have been focusing on people's concerns.

"The election campaign federally is coming down to a cat and dog fight between the two main parties. To watch them is an insult to voters."

(Continued on Page 8)

JANUARY 2006

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22		THIS MONDAY, VOTE.				

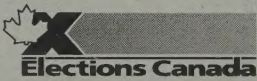
To know when and where to vote, consult your voter information card. It includes all the information you'll need to use your right to vote, and you'll get through the voting process more quickly if you have it with you.

Voting hours for your polling station are indicated on your voter information card and on the Elections Canada Web site at www.elections.ca by clicking on the Voter Information Service icon.

If you haven't received this card, you are probably not on the voters list. To be able to vote, all you have to do is go to your polling station on election day, January 23, and present an official document that includes your name, address and signature. If you do not have such a document, you will be given the opportunity to swear that you are eligible to vote at the polling station you are in, as long as you are accompanied by a voter registered in the same polling division who can vouch for your identity.

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Crystal meth turns family's fairytale to broken dreams

By Vicki Brooker
Staff Writer

"This is where I went to school," Audrey (Holliday) Bjornstad told the students of F. G. Miller High School last Thursday afternoon, in the first of two information sessions on the highly addictive street drug, crystal meth.

"I last spoke here at my graduation, as valedictorian. Today, I felt it was important to come and tell you this so it doesn't happen in your family."

Bjornstad said her family's story "all started like a fairytale, with two parents and two beautiful kids." At 15, her son was "an athletic teenager, a kid who had it all." Then, in Grade 10, he was caught skipping school and smoking pot.

"It was the beginning of the end."

The panicked parents got counseling for their son and set curfews, and thought things were returning to normal. Then in the summer of 2003, the youth's behaviour started to change. He lost interest in family activities, friends and sports, "and then our world fell apart" at the end of summer when he went missing for days.

"The police found him in a meth house in Sherwood Park. We didn't know what meth was, or what a meth house was, and we sure didn't know that there was a meth house in Sherwood Park."

Their "miserable, unhappy kid," who had been charged with possession and trafficking, was released to their care, and thus began "a month from hell," as he continued to use and deal in crystal meth and to steal

from his family.

"We had no choice but to give him an ultimatum," Bjornstad said. "He had to get treatment or he couldn't continue to live at home." While it was "the hardest thing I've ever done," she had no choice but to lock him out.

"He phoned home nightly to tell us he was OK, but cold, hunger and hardship were not enough to make him admit he was an addict and accept treatment."

The youth lived on the streets until he was arrested in October and sent to the Edmonton Young Offenders Centre, where he was held for 41 days.

"In jail, I at least I knew where he was. Finally, I could sleep, because I knew he was safe there."

While their son was incarcerated, Bjornstad says, "we learned as much as we could: to overcome guilt, shame and embarrassment, to set values and boundaries, and to manipulate the system. We found that parents have all the responsibility but none of the control."

At this time, Bjornstad "decided to go public. I went to politicians, community members and the media to try to get help for my son. Driven by the fear that he would die, I pounded on door after door, and talked to anyone who would listen."

It took seven months of living in a group home, but finally, "we were very lucky, he got into treatment."

The Bjornstads' son returned home a year and a half later.

The addict is "a victim," Bjornstad says, "a slave to a substance, and his family are

victims too. It blew me out of the water when it happened to us. Parents, siblings, grandparents and teammates are all victims."

The difficulty of obtaining treatment for young addicts is compounded by the fact that there are only eight treatment beds in the province, Bjornstad says, and until Bill 202, the Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act, comes into effect on July 1, 2006, it is also impossible to force young people into treatment without their consent.

In May, 2004, Bjornstad formed Parents Empowering Parents, a group which includes a support group for recovering youth. "Every meeting we have five to 10 new families dealing with addiction."

Recovery is said to take nine to 24 months, with cross-addictions common, but Bjornstad cautions that "it's a process, not an event." Her son's recovery is "not over, and it might never be over."

For the Bjornstads, "our journey continues. We have our son back, but he's not the same kid." Now living away from home, she says, "he's trying to get on with his life."

"I'm not here to scare you," Bjornstad told the FGM students as she wound up her presentation. "I'm here to tell you this is real."

A few hours later, Bjornstad faced a packed house at the Seniors'



Town councillor Thomas Kondla and F. G. Miller High School principal Laverne Wilson thank Audrey Bjornstad and Staff Sgt. Ian Sanderson for the wealth of information they provided for students at last Thursday's information session on the pitfalls of crystal meth.

Vicki Brooker photo

Recreation Centre to tell her story to the public.

"It's kind of weird coming home," she told her audience. "This is one of the harder [presentations] I've done."

As one of the first parents to go public, Bjornstad says she was "met with denial. The community was not ready to admit we had a problem." She praised Elk Point for "being proactive, rather than reactive. I hope you continue forward, and set up a response team and have a coordinated effort."

Addiction is a problem that can face any family, she emphasized. "As a community, you will be dealing with this. Families will need accurate facts and the reassurance that they didn't cause this."

"We were both raised in a small town. We had morals and values in the right places. Addiction has no boundaries or borders."

"I truly believe you are a pioneer in the province," Thomas Kondla, who was part of the planning committee for the sessions, told

Bjornstad. "There are angels in society, and you are one of them," he said as he presented her with an angel statuette and a candle commemorating her visit.

Kondla says he feels that the drug awareness process will continue in Elk Point.

"The biggest question I get is, 'is there a crystal meth problem in Elk Point?' I don't believe we have a big problem, but crystal meth is in Elk Point."

"This is step one. We'll continue on from there."

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EDITORIAL

A time for speaking out

It takes a lot of courage to speak out on issues that touch one's own family, especially in a society which until recent years, kept all its skeletons tidily in the closet and did not hang dirty laundry out in public. That is to say, if your family had secrets, you kept them that way, even if doing so put others at risk.

It isn't even far-fetched to think that a few years ago, if the Town had held a drug information night such as packed the Seniors' Centre last week, no one would have come, because that might have cast suspicion on the attendees of having someone who used drugs in their family. If such a session were held for high school students, it would have the don't-even-think-about-it tone of the films previous generations saw about venereal disease.

Thank goodness those days are over. By bringing such matters as drug addiction out in the open and sharing experiences, those who speak out help to erase the shame and blame for others in the same boat. Sharing information is a sure way to help others to find the necessary resources.

Sessions such as those held last week get the information out there in a non-judgmental, no-punches-pulled fashion. The students now have the information they need to make an informed decision about drug use, and the community knows what to look for in order to know when someone has been using drugs such as crystal meth or to be aware that a drug lab could be located right next door.

Awareness is a valuable tool. Thanks to those who have opened the community's eyes to the real world - a world we all live in.

WAY BACK WHEN...

A week of arrivals and departures

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE ELK POINT REVIEW AND THE LAKELAND REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 17 IN...

1986

Randy and Pam Ballas were congratulated on the arrival of the New Year's baby, when daughter Kristyn arrived on January 9. Elk Point and District Lions Club celebrated 15 years of dedicated community service at their Charter Night, with 10-year chevrons presented to Karl Heinemann and John Oryschuk by Past District Governor Dr. Jack Dobush.

1991

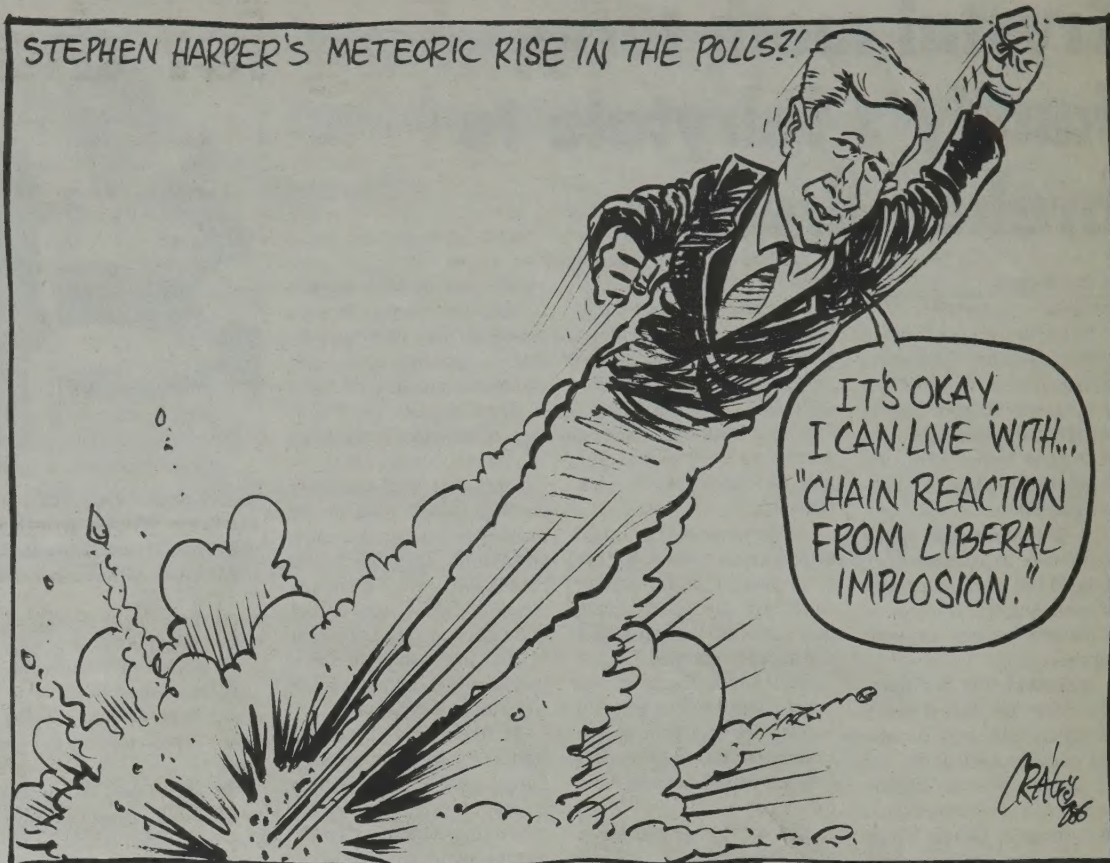
Shannon Marie Paul, daughter of Brenda Paul and Ronald Fryingpan, was the New Year's baby, arriving on January 7. A large new building originally intended for use as a funeral chapel was offered to the Pioneer Circle seniors for a very reasonable sum, with the ecstatic group hopeful that they could obtain the necessary funds to purchase and finish the facility to fit their needs.

1996

Elk Point Historical Society's CN caboose hit the road for Heinsburg by truck, where it would become a focal point of their railway historic park. In the wake of an announcement that Dr. Keith McNeilly was giving up active care privileges at Elk Point Health Centre, Town Council spearheaded a steering committee to look into recruitment of another physician.

2001

The Town of Elk Point dropped plans to annex the quarter section containing the Elk Point Recreation Park in hope of encouraging the County of St. Paul to allow annexation of two other parcels adjoining the south side of the community. No objections were brought forth by ratepayers at a public hearing regarding Anadarko's 16-well-per-quarter spacing on areas immediately adjacent to the town.



GUEST COLUMN

Election day coming

This coming Monday, January 23, 2006 is federal election day in Canada. How are you all doing? Have you been listening to and reading about all the viewpoints of all the candidates and leaders from all the parties? This is good. Now, don't forget to vote.

Speaking of election day, did you know that 1917 was an historic election for women? The 1917 provincial election was the first in which Alberta women could vote - and also be candidates. Louise McKinney won the Claresholm constituency, becoming the first female legislator in the British Empire. Two months later she was joined by Roberta MacAdams, chosen by Alberta soldiers and nurses stationed overseas as one of two MLAs elected under the Alberta Military Representation Act. In February 1918, a week after being sworn in, MacAdams introduced a bill to incorporate a welfare organization, the War Veterans' Next-of-Kin Association. It was the first legislation introduced by a woman to be passed anywhere in the Empire. That was also an important year in the United States. In 1913, Montana granted women the right to vote. Three years later, Jeanette Rankin, who had spearheaded the suffrage movement there, ran for the House of Representatives and son. She ran for the Senate two years later, but was defeated - not because she was a woman, but because as a dedicated pacifist, she had opposed America's entry into World War I. Ironically, Rankin was also serving in the House when the vote to enter World War II was taken. She voted no again.



deanna
EASTHOPE

from the FCSS desk

So there you go, ladies, the right to vote and the right to have our viewpoints heard was not always a given. We have come a long way. Democracy is now in action for both genders.

Speaking of democracy and voting, there is a story about Robert Brady, who was driving through town and decided to stop at a convenience store for a burrito. Next door, in front of Town Hall, he saw a sign that read, 'Vote Today.'

For a lark, the former Ashford, Connecticut resident - who was still registered to vote there - strolled into the Town Hall and voted 'Yes' in what turned out to be a referendum on the town budget. He later learned that the \$5 million budget had passed by a single vote. "Hey, I changed the course of history, all for a burrito," Brady said, laughing. There is another story about voting I found interesting.

U.S. voters have occasionally elected dead men to office. Usually the candidate dies after being nominated, and it's too late to remove the name from the ballot and nominated someone who's alive. But at least once - in 1968 - a corpse was actually nominated, and elected. The 'elected official' was the last remains of Rep. Thaddeus Stevens of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His supporters did it as a tribute. So there you go. In democracy and voting, it cannot be said that each vote cast doesn't represent what happens.

Speaking of what happens, have you ever wondered about the talents of the people that are elected and how they effect what happens? There is a story about Dwight D. Eisenhower that I found interesting. Eisenhower loved to paint but couldn't draw - so he had other artists outline on his canvas the things he wanted to paint. This led directly to the paint-by-numbers fad of the 1950s. From this example, one could state that it takes more than one person to make government work in its best form.

Each elected person is important. Therefore, don't for-

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

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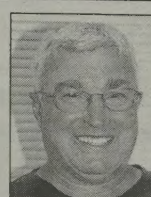
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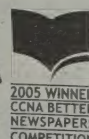


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County ups funding for chambers

By RACHEL DE WAAL
Staff Writer

Chambers of commerce in the County of St. Paul will all benefit from an appeal to the county by the St. Paul and District Chamber of Commerce for more funding.

Council agreed last Tuesday to give the St. Paul chamber \$10,000 and also increased funding for the Mallaig chamber to \$1,500 and the Elk Point chamber to \$4,000.

Representatives from the St. Paul chamber first approached council in November asking for \$15,000, and returned to council last week, asking for \$10,000.

"We're here to emphasize what we are doing, to give an idea of the whole package," said chamber president Bill Lawrence. "I'd like you to consider increasing your support, more than \$6,000 last year."

He said the chamber works on a "shoestring budget" and needs to expand its resources in order to expand its reach.

Lawrence described some of the chamber's activities, including campaigning for a Highway 29 designation, supporting community events and programs and organizing the Lights of St. Paul.

He also said the chamber had upgraded its office equipment to better serve the community as a tourist information booth and as an Iron Horse Trail resource centre.

"All these things are very important and all these things cost money," said Lawrence. "We think you would receive very good value for those dollars. It's money well spent."

Reeve Robert Bouchard reminded the delegates that the county had other chambers within its boundaries.

"With all respect to other chambers, they don't work as hard as we do," said Lawrence.

However, Coun. Glen Ockerman said the Elk Point chamber has been very active, citing the annual Christmas Extravaganza as an example. He said if council gave the St. Paul chamber more money it would have to re-examine its funding to the other chambers.

Coun. Maxine Fodness said council had given funding to the Mallaig and Elk Point chambers for various smaller requests throughout

the year, over and above the 2005 allotment.

Bouchard said the county doesn't spend much money on economic development or promoting tourism, but the chamber does.

"Maybe we should consider (increasing funding) so they can pick up the slack," said Bouchard.

However, Ockerman pointed out that the county was promoting itself by developing its infrastructure.

Councillors agreed the St. Paul chamber has been more active in the last few years.

"Things are starting to happen in St. Paul," said Fodness. "If the county could provide some assistance, it could be a real plus to the community."

Last year was the first year the county designated funds to the three chambers, with \$6,000 to St. Paul, \$3,000 to Elk Point and \$1,000 to Mallaig.

Rezoning approved

Council passed the second and third readings of Bylaw 1459 to rezone part of a quarter section of land along a curve on Highway 28, east of St. Paul.

Last month, council asked the developer to address its concerns regarding water supply and the effects of traffic if PSE 11-58-9-W4 were rezoned to Country Residential.

The town said before it would guarantee a supply of water to the land, it would have to meet with the county and develop a long-range plan for extending its water system beyond town boundaries.

A letter from Alberta Transportation said the department would likely request a Traffic Impact Assessment at the subdivision stage.

Rezoning resolution

Council passed the first reading of Bylaw 1466 to rezone two lots within SW30-58-9-W4 from Agricultural District to Country Residential.

The lots had been subdivided decades earlier, but

had never been rezoned.

"We missed it 30 years ago, so we should probably do it," said Bouchard.

Land lease

Council signed a 10-year land lease with Haying in the '30s on the west half of SE 24-60-10-W4, effective Jan. 1.

Council members pointed out the organization has been growing every year and is not going away.

(Continued on Page 11)



Five-year pin presented

Bob Dixon, Vice President of Operation for Servus Credit Union presented a five-year pin to Rod Randall, Branch Manager at the Elk Point Branch, last week in recognition of five years of service, effective January 22, 2006.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

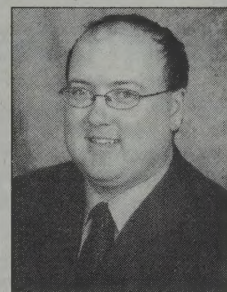
SERVUS
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"Tip of the Month"

RRSP Strategies

With the start of RRSP season upon us, most people realize that trying to collect enough money to live once you've reached the age of retirement is not an easy task. There are, however, certain strategies you can use in order to increase the effectiveness of your RRSP.

- 1) Start early - By making contributions at the start of your working career, you will benefit more from long term compounding.
- 2) Contribute regularly - Take money from your paycheck to put towards your RRSP every month, that way you will start earning tax sheltered income right away.
- 3) Do not miss a year - It may sound obvious, but, one year can have a significant impact on your savings.
- 4) Contribute at the start of the month rather than at the end - There are considerable long term effects of contributing 30 days earlier each month.
- 5) Do not take money out - Early withdrawal from your RRSP should only occur as a last resort or in emergency situations.



Vote for...

Brian Storseth

Westlock - St. Paul



Stand up for Change

Conservative

Stand up for Canada

BRIAN WILL STAND UP FOR:

Agriculture

- Income security for families dependent on farming.
- Protection of the family farm.

Health Care

- Cut medical wait times by establishing a Wait Times Guarantee by the end of 2006 - setting wait time reduction targets to ensure that all Canadians are treated within medically acceptable time limits.
- Ensure proper funding to provinces to improve health care.

Taxes

Canadians are working longer and longer hours but finding it harder and harder to get ahead. Government must reduce taxes on middle-class families starting with the GST and lower taxes on small business.

- Cut the GST to 5 per cent: an immediate reduction to 6 per cent, and further cuts to 5 per cent over the next five years.
- Support Canada's farmers and resource industries such as forestry, fishing and mining.

Crime

- Mandatory prison sentences for serious drug trafficking, weapons, and violent offences, and ending house arrests for violent, sexual, and other serious offences.
- Ending wasteful long-gun registry and using the savings to hire more front-line police officers.

Children and Families

- Choice in child care. We will give all parents \$100 per month per child under age 6 to spend on child care needs as they choose - whether that means formal day care, a babysitter, a neighborhood child care, or helping one parent stay at home.

Seniors

- Put more money in seniors' pockets by protecting their pension.
- Increase the pension income-tax deduction to \$2,500
- Ensure better service for seniors.

Military

Let's keep Canada strong and united.

- A strong Canadian military that has the resources to protect us at home and meet our obligations abroad.
- Give our military personnel the respect they deserve.

Clean up Government

Canadians have been let down by 12 years of Liberal scandal. We need a change in government to restore accountability and end the culture of entitlement.

- Enact legislation - *Federal Accountability Act* - a sweeping reform plan to clean up government.

Stand up for Canada

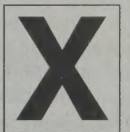
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January 23, 2006

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Northeast school boards to review accountability pillars

By KRISTI PATTON
Staff Writer

All the school boards from the northeast Alberta divisions will meet with Alberta Education officials in St. Paul on Jan. 25 to go over Alberta Education's Accountability Pillars.

The board has previously expressed dismay at the Accountability Pillars program, which it says ranks school boards but doesn't provide assistance in improving education.

Board members mentioned at their regular meeting last Wednesday that it should be an interesting meeting.

Glen Avon

The approximate closing date on bids the new Glen Avon School building is Feb. 9, but the board is still waiting to hear back from Alberta Infrastructure.

"They are seeing what the parents want, the kids want, the business community, and looking at the facilities at Regional," said director of education Rene LaFrance.

Superintendent Doug Yeo mentioned after the meeting a number of things are flying around about Racette and St. Paul Elementary.

"The St. Paul Solution is still waiting to hear back from Alberta Infrastructure regarding St. Paul Elementary and Racette. If renovations of the elementary school with

additions to include Racette is approved, a committee will be struck of parents, staff, kids and administration from the schools involved to plan a facility," said Yeo.

Division signs

The board will follow up with facilities about division signs at the schools.

The board will look to find the costs of adding 'St. Paul Education Regional Division' to the signs, and what the best way to do it would be.

"My idea is that a lot of schools have community signs and maybe as a header they could have 'St. Paul Education,' but we also need to look into the cost," said trustee Darrell Youngmans

Governance agreement

Another update on the progress of the division's new governance agreement was provided.

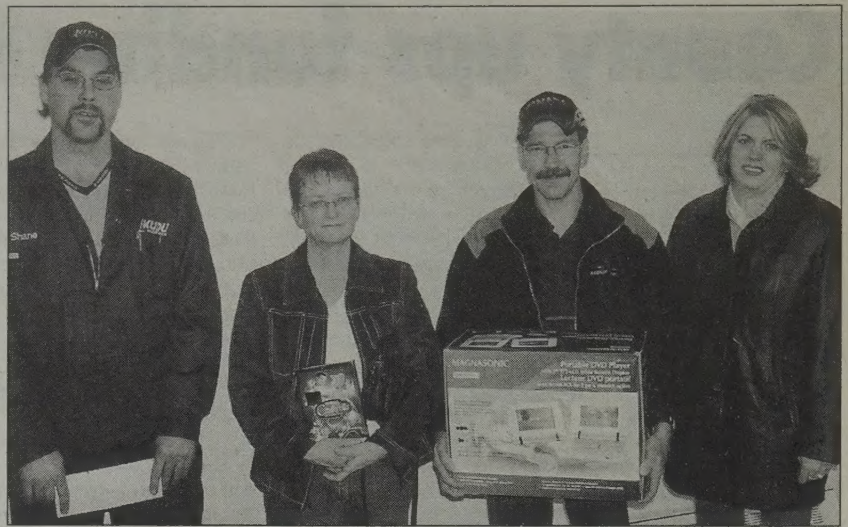
Yeo said they hope to meet with government officials sometime in February.

"We should have all the players in the room at one time rather than go back and forth with he said, she said. Just do it all at one time," said trustee Deb Pederson.

Bus purchased

"We were looking for a bus to replace our field trip bus. This one for sale, which was less than five years old, had everything we were looking for," said Yeo.

The bus will be used by all schools.



Jack and Jill Playschool draw winners

Lori Nelson (right), representative of Jack and Jill Playschool, recently presented the prizes in the Jack and Jill Playschool raffle. Harvey and Myrna Rybak won the dual-screen DVD player from Cal's Home Hardware and a Cinderella DVD from CJ Petroleum, while Shane Stybel accepted a \$50 gas voucher from Wozniak Bulk Fuel and a case of oil from McEwan's Esso on behalf of Halle Stybel. Kathy Deschamps, not shown, won a \$100 gift certificate from Elk Point Co-op. Jack and Jill Playschool is grateful for the good support shown by both sponsors of the raffle and those who bought tickets.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Nominate a Great Kid today

COPY SUBMITTED

Do you know any great kids? It's time the rest of Alberta knows them, too! Nominations are now being accepted for the 2006 Alberta Great Kids Award.

Between the ages of five and 18 and living anywhere in Alberta, Great Kids show generosity, compassion and a strong sense of spirit. They do great things everyday, for themselves and others, at home, at school and in their communities.

The Government of Alberta honours these outstanding children and youth each year, through the Great Kids Award.

"The children and youth in Alberta are an amazing bunch," said Alberta Children's Services Minister Heather Forsyth. "We all

know someone who deserves this recognition, and I encourage every Albertan to nominate a Great Kid."

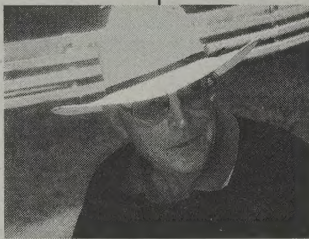
Great Kids are honoured during an awards ceremony at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton, and the selected winners receive a prize package including: a computer from IBM, an education bursary from TransCanada, accommodation at the Fantasyland Hotel and attractions passes to West Edmonton Mall.

The deadline for nominations is Jan. 20. For more information and a nomination package, visit www.greatkids.gov.ab.ca or call Alberta Children's Services at (780) 415-0085. For toll-free access, first dial 310-0000.

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Cleaning the Air Together



Reg Watson, founding member of the Parkland Airshed Management Zone

"I think they've done a tremendous job," says Reg Watson, who owns a half section 11 kilometres east of Sundre, Alberta. Watson, a 15-year resident of the area, is talking about the oil and gas industry's record on venting.

The Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) recently announced that in 2004 venting of solution gas from oil production was down by almost half since 2000. Flaring was down 72 per cent since 1996.

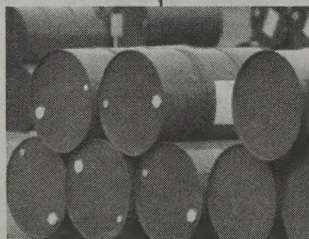
Solution gas is an unavoidable by-product of oil production. In the past, disposing of it meant releasing it into the atmosphere (venting) or burning it off (flaring). Today, 96 per cent of solution gas is conserved or sold, the highest conservation level in six years. Great news considering a record year of new wells in Alberta — 18,572 in 2004.

Before numbers like these, Watson was skeptical of industry's concern for cleaner air. So much so, that he became a founding member of the Parkland Airshed Management Zone, a regional air quality group. The group works closely with the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA), a nonprofit multi-stakeholder organization committed to managing Alberta's air quality.

Since becoming involved, his opinions have changed. "We are all working together to improve air quality in the province," he says. "The oil and gas industry has made great improvements."

To learn more about the EUB visit www.eub.gov.ab.ca or call (403) 297-8311. For more information on CASA go to www.casahome.org.

Who Sets the Crude Oil Prices?



Crude oil prices are determined by supply and demand worldwide.

Canada produces more oil than we consume. Then why is it sold to Canadians at world market prices?

The answer is that crude oil is a global commodity. It trades in a worldwide marketplace where the price is determined by supply and demand. Growth in world demand is outpacing growth in supply. A strong global economy needs oil to fuel vehicles and make products from tires to asphalt.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which produces about 40 per cent of the world's oil, also influences prices by setting the production levels of its members. Other factors, like damage to U.S. production facilities from Hurricane Katrina, have reduced supplies this year.

Why can't we have a 'made-in-Canada' price?

"Interfering in the market to keep prices below world levels would discourage investment in Canada, and mean fewer jobs and lower tax and royalty revenues for governments," says Colleen Killingsworth, President of the Canadian Centre for Energy Information.

The impact in Alberta would be enormous.

The \$25 billion the industry invested in Alberta in 2005 contributes to a vibrant economy creating jobs and more revenues for governments. Without the \$13.2 billion Alberta is forecasted to receive from oil and gas in 2005-06, the province would need to charge a 25 per cent provincial sales tax to generate the same revenue.

For more information visit www.centreforenergy.com or www.energy.gov.ab.ca.

Green Certificate Training Workshops

Copy submitted

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's Green Certificate is an apprenticeship-style training program that serves the agricultural industry in eight production specializations:

- * field crops
- * irrigated crops
- * feedlot
- * sheep
- * cow-calf
- * swine
- * dairy
- * beekeeping

"Green Certificate is a hands-on, practical training program that is offered through the high school system or directly from a farm employer," says Raelene Mercer, Green Certificate program coordinator. "In 2005, the program enjoyed participation by a record number of 921 trainees across the province, the highest number of participants ever.

This year, a new beekeeping curriculum is being implemented."

The Green Certificate is widely respected by Alberta teachers and educators and is available in over 200 high schools, and is in demand as new employment training by many agricultural producers.

"Last year, we celebrated the program's 30th anniversary, and we are now focusing

on the needs of our trainers and testers," adds Mercer. "We are taking the program to the next level in certifying trained, high-quality workers to assist in the labour requirements of the agricultural sector in this province."

The Green Certificate Program will be hosting Green Certificate tester certification workshops this winter to provide tools, resources and techniques to evaluating testers. The workshops are designed for current testers and to recruit new testers and orientate them on:

- * the Green Certificate program
- * the Green Certificate testing process
- * what makes a good Green Certificate tester
- * how to make Green Certificate testing a hands-on experience for testers and trainees

There will be one workshop in each region of the province for their testing teams. There is no cost to attend this workshop and lunch will be provided.

The workshop locations and dates are:

- * Olds - February 15
- * Vermilion - February 21
- * Edmonton - February 23
- * Fairview - March 1
- * Lethbridge - March 8

The Green Certificate Program will also be hosting a series of trainer work-

shops. There will be no cost to attend this workshop. The workshops are being developed for new trainers and existing trainers, with hopes of establishing a trainer manual for delivery to all trainers across the province to assist them in guiding their trainees through the program to achieve a high level of competence through this apprenticeship-style training program. The workshop will provide a chance for trainers to ask questions on how to use the Green Certificate curriculum materials, where to access training resources and how to prepare trainees for testing. This

workshop will be an excellent introduction to the program and will show interested Albertans how to get involved.

The workshop locations and dates are:

- * Lethbridge - January 24
- * Olds - January 26
- * Edmonton - January 30
- * Vermilion - January 31
- * Fairview - February 2

For more information and to register for either workshop please call Alberta Agriculture's Ag-Info Center at 1-800-387-6030

Workshop available for greenhouse growers

Copy submitted

Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association (AGGA), Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and Greenhouse Allied Trades have arranged a Growing Media, Water and Fertilizer Management workshop. As energy and production costs increase, it only makes sense to make the best use

of growing media, water and fertilizers in order to produce high-quality products. This workshop will present information that will help Alberta greenhouse growers make their own decisions relating to water quality, and develop fertility management tools suited to their individual businesses. The workshop is being held at the Crop

Diversification Centre North, 17507 Fort Road, Edmonton, on February 15, 2006, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Registration is \$53.50 for AGGA members and \$ 74.90 for non-members. Registration cost includes lunch. For registration forms and a detailed program, visit www.agga.ca or contact Dr. Mohyuddin Mirza at (780) 415-2303.

Today's issues - tomorrow's challenges

Copy Submitted

Adopting the best practices that have been used by successful farm managers the world over may not always be easy, but it is possible. Using tried-and-true best practices can simplify profitable farming. The first step is knowledge, and registering for the 2006 Managing Excellence in Agriculture Conference is an easy way to tap into a wealth of wisdom.

The conference is a leading-edge professional development and networking opportunity for farmers, farm families and agriculture advisors. Presented by the Canadian Farm Business Management Council, the 2006 event is being offered in Kananaskis from February 1 to 3, 2006, and in Saint-Sauveur, Quebec, from February 15 to 17, 2006. The Saint-Sauveur event will be presented with simultaneous translation.

"There is no secret formula that is available to only a few," says Wendell Joyce, executive director of the Canadian Farm Business Management Council. "Successful producers don't have to be a member of the elite two per cent or get a business degree from Harvard. What they need to do is look for those very doable changes in their operation and then make them. The conference presentations, workshops and break-out sessions will help producers do just that."

The theme for the 2006 event is Succeeding in Agriculture: A Vision for the Future. The conference will explore today's issues and provide management tools for tomorrow's challenges. Industry experts will be on hand to discuss the ins and outs of managing a success-

ful farm business.

This year's conferences will focus on three topics:

how improved communication within a family can unlock a farm's business potential

how using risk management can achieve greater long-term profitability

the advantages of non-traditional business structures on farms.

In addition, two workshops on value chains and renewable energy will be offered on a first-come first-served basis at no additional charge.

At both locations, the speaker line-up includes:

- * Bill MacFarquhar, CFBMC chair
- * Don Jonovic, Family Business Management Services

* Richard Worzel, futurist

* Ted Darling, agricultural risk specialist, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

* Gary Pike, Pike Management Group

* and many other industry experts

Registration rates are \$295 per person and \$349 per family (limited to three family members). Registration prices do not include GST. Registration deadline is January 25, 2006 for Kananaskis and February 8, 2006 for Saint-Sauveur. Excellent hotel rates are available for conference registrants. For more information and to register, visit www.farmcentre.com or call toll-free 1-866-492-1171.



Cory Ollikka
Liberal Candidate
Westlock-St Paul



A Voice the West Can be Proud Of

Under the Liberal government, the Canadian economy is strong, stable and growing; unemployment is at an all-time low; health, education and social programs remain high-priority items. Canada's reputation as a peace-keeper remains intact.

Conservative Alberta, with only one Liberal representative in Ottawa, is a political island on the Canadian landscape. Albertans are locked out, left out of the loop, without a strong voice that can be heard clearly where it matters, on the government side. The 'firewall' that Albertans claim to insulate them against Ottawa does more to isolate Albertans from major decision-making. If policy change is to occur in rural Alberta, it must come democratically by sending Liberals to Ottawa.

Regardless of the election outcome, Alberta needs balanced representation in Ottawa. Albertans need Liberals in order to push Alberta's agenda forward.

View a copy of the Made-In-Alberta Agenda, Cory's platform and schedule on our website:

WWW.CORY4MP.CA

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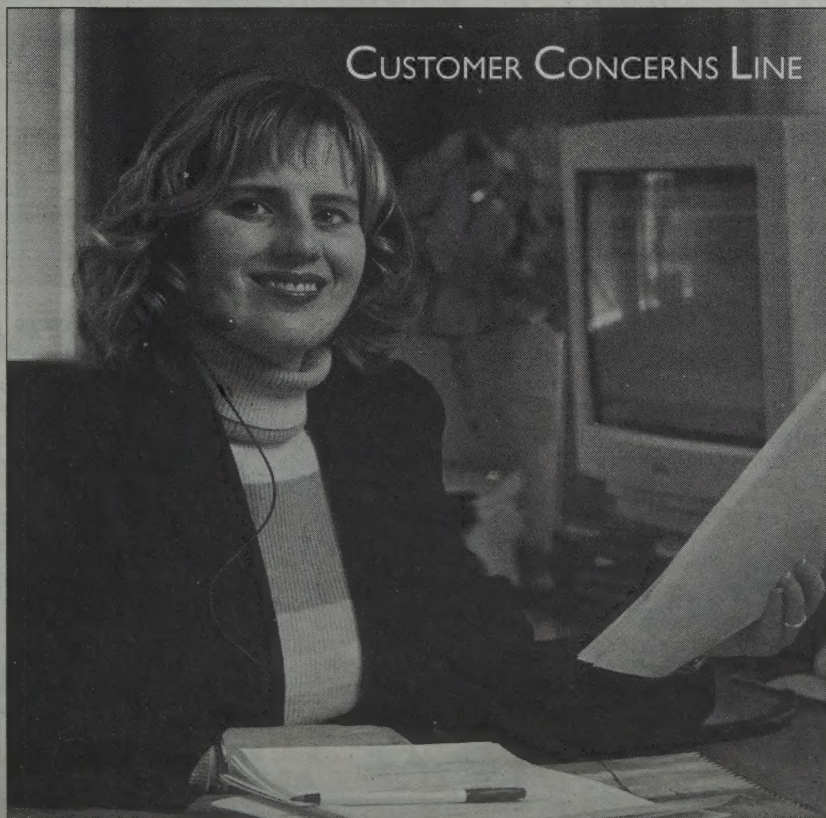
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Schultz

(Continued from Page 2)

"Family values, like the national daycare program that is so wrong, have not been addressed by candidates other than myself," says Schultz. "It's all been about tossing money at circumstances, like crime, but if we get our moral values, these other things will fall into line."

Schultz says as a leader of the country, government should provide a moral example to youth and give them hope for the future.

"It's easy to say God bless Canada, but in our moral agendas it's time Canada blesses God."

Schultz encourages everyone to take the time to cast a ballot.

"It's vital that everybody gets out to vote for whoever you feel is right," says Schultz. "Do not take the road of apathy."

Storseth

(Continued from Page 2)

Storseth would like to see "common-sense solutions" to issues such as child care and tax reform, along with a move toward "putting responsibility back in the hands of the people, rather than the government telling them what to do."

Most of all, Storseth says, Canadians "need to change the government. After 12

years of broken promises, we need a change so that we can start fulfilling some of the promises that have been made to the people of this country."

With just days left before the January 23 federal election, Storseth wants to remind the voters that Conservative candidates across the country "are out there working hard for them."

Gisler

(Continued from Page 2)

Gisler has been involved in agriculture for many years and wants to see a reinvestment into Alberta and address input costs through rebates. The candidate also has strong views on the environment supporting the Water for Life strategies and protecting the environment through new technology.

As a councilor of the M.D. of Bonnyville Gisler

has first hand experience in learning about the issues many in the riding have a great worry for.

"I think what really people are concerned about with mostly is how to make it through the month with the high cost of gas and natural gas," said Gisler. "I think it is the daily concerns of people that I would like to bring to the table."

"I haven't heard anyone addressing the issues that I

Bring your voter information card with your correct name and address and, to the closest polling station.

If you don't have a voter information card, and you have not previously regis-

tered to vote, you can still register at the polling station on election day. But you will have to bring proper identification. This can be:

* a document with your name, current address and

signature (like a driver's licence); or

* two documents: one with your name and signature (like a health card), and the other with your name and current address (like a phone bill or a hydro bill)

To register to vote you can also contact Elections Canada at: 1 800 463-6868 toll-free in Canada and the United States.

The voting hours are: 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Vote as you please, but please vote

Opryshko

(Continued from Page 2)

Opryshko says the NDP "has taken the high road, presented positive alternatives and policies for the working people, for families, pensioners, First Nations and farmers."

Opryshko says all Albertans deserve to have their views represented and shouldn't allow Conservative opinions to dominate the province.

Opryshko also says proportional representation

would encourage people to vote and he would advocate changing the voting system.

"People are staying away because they think their vote will not count," says Opryshko.

Ollikka

(Continued from Page 2)

Ollikka says he and his party would do more for First Nations than the Conservatives.

"The Conservatives have no platform on aboriginal issues. That's a disgrace," he says.

The Conservatives' lack of commitment to the funding formula laid out in the

agreement from last fall's first ministers' meeting with First Nations leaders is "devastating" for aboriginal communities, says Ollikka.

"I've even been hearing (the agreement is) not far enough," he says, adding more can be done than what was agreed upon. "If you get a Conservative government you're not going to get

what was already agreed upon."

When asked why people should vote for him, Ollikka said: "Because I have a good deal of experience and a good deal of energy, and I want to direct my energies toward helping the people of Westlock-St. Paul. I feel I have a good track record of public service."

DeSmet

(Continued from Page 2)

"The proper number of doctors and equipment can be brought to communities. We can make (communities) grow with almost every issue we face whether it be human rights, justice or expanding our constitutional base to include and protect more people. All these things we can do in a healthy and substantial economy," said De Smet.

The Green Party candidate has talked about being pro-active on health issues by using preventative techniques which in turn help with wait times. By streamlining doctor recruitment and promoting to young doctors the advantages of working in rural areas will also assist.

Agriculture and infrastructure policies

which involve the communities and farmers having more control is also on the forefront of De Smet's mind.

"The decision now the voter has to make is how, when they cast their vote, which party best represents their vision and best represents a type of future they see for themselves and children," said De Smet. "Hopefully everyone does that and they will be telling us what they want and by expressing their opinion by casting their vote they can solve the problems."

De Smet will attend the St. Paul forum on Jan. 17 at the St. Paul recreation centre then will be gathering with volunteers on the polling day to watch them together.

"We will either rejoice with a toast of champagne or cry in our beer," said De Smet.

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TO BOOK APPOINTMENTS

CONTACT GATOR AT 724-4665

Rural Roots Project offers bursaries for high school student projects

COPY SUBMITTED

Change for Children Association is looking for high school youths who are interested in receiving one of five available bursaries to host a Youth Action Day in their community or school.

Youth Action Days are educational initiatives organized by youths with the help of a mentor and the Change for Children staff.

The youths will choose a local-global social issue of importance to them and organize an event in their community or school.

These events will take place during the months of February and March, 2006. The objective of Youth Action Days is to provide a core group of rural youth volunteers with leadership training for social action.

Examples of what youths are doing in other communities are:

■ A group in Red Deer hosted a rock concert in their school that raised

awareness about racism. It was called "Rocking Out Against Racism."

■ Students from Ross Shepard High School in Edmonton hosted an event called "Day of Change," where students donated spare change and operated a car wash to raise money for the elimination of landmines in Cambodia.

You could host a documentary film in your school about water, HIV/AIDS, recycling, etc.

Youth Action Days are a part of Change for Children's Rural Roots Project, which is an innovative for-youth-by-youth project bringing global education and leadership training to youth around Alberta.

The Rural Roots Project is sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency, Wildrose Foundation, Lee Global Education Fund and United Farmers of Alberta.

After the event the students involved will showcase their Youth

Action Day at the Second Annual Rural Roots Youth Conference. This conference will take place March 31 to April 2.

The goal of this conference is to give students an opportunity to come together to learn about current issues affecting communities, economies and the environment in Alberta and globally.

Change for Children Association is a non-profit organization based in Edmonton.

Any youth interested in receiving a bursary for a Youth Action Day or attending the conference should contact Gus (gusruralroots@hotmail.com) or Fiona (fiona@change4children.org) by e-mail or by calling the CFCA office at (780) 448-1505. Also, look for more information about the Rural Roots Project on Change for Children's website at www.change4children.org.

Guest speaker coming to Christian Community Church

INFORMATION SUBMITTED

Elk Point Christian Community Church will welcome guest speaker Milan Podsednik to their Sunday, January 22 service, scheduled for 10 a.m.

Podsednik was born under Communist rule in Czechoslovakia and grew up poor and oppressed. He developed an interest in motorcycles at a young age, eventually rebuilding one. At age 22, he and his brother escaped by motorcycle into Austria on a four-day pass, never to return.

Reveling in his newfound freedom, Podsednik joined the fast lifestyle of many western youth, pursuing his passion for Harley Davidson motorcycles. He moved to Fort McMurray, Alberta, and established one of the largest Harley Davidson dealerships in North America.

Podsednik soon discovered that oppression could be caused by his own choices, no matter where he was.

Podsednik is a dynamic, inspiring speaker with a genuine compassion for people of all ages. His powerful testimony on the "Good News" television program has been highly requested by viewers. Bring your friends, neighbours, young adults and family.

4-H Canada seeks youth members to participate in advertising campaign

COPY SUBMITTED

4-H Canada recently unveiled an exciting new project to empower its youth members to create the organization's next national advertising campaign. Raising awareness of the youth program - and ultimately increasing membership enrolment - is a key objective of the Canadian 4-H Council's newest Strategic Plan, which was released last summer. The national organization aims to meet this objective by creating a Youth Advertising Team (YAT). Comprised of 4-H Members aged 16 to 21 from across the country, YAT will work with marketing and advertising industry experts to create a new awareness campaign in 2006/2007 for 4-H across Canada.

"This is an exciting and, we believe, cutting-edge approach to generating awareness. We can't think of a better way to put into action our motto - which is 'Learn To Do By Doing' - than to have our youth members learn valuable new skills while also helping to create our next awareness campaign," said Mike Nowosad, Executive Director of Canadian 4-H Council.

"The Youth Advertising Team will not only showcase the incredible creative talent among 4-H Members, it will also result in a compelling campaign created for youth, by youth," said Bertram Stewart, president of Canadian 4-H Council. "This new initiative is just one of many progressive developments taking place in the 4-H organization as we align ourselves to better

serve the needs of Canada's modern and savvy youth."

YAT is now accepting applications from active 4-H Members aged 16 to 21 from across the country. To enter, candidates must submit a video explaining why they should be chosen to serve on the team. The video can be in a number of different video formats such as: DVD, CD-ROM (.AVI, .MOV, .MPEG, .WMV), or VHS, and cannot exceed 2 minutes. Candidates should explain why they feel they will make a great addition to YAT. Entries must include candidate's name and address, phone number, email, name of their 4-H Club, and addressed to: Youth Advertising Team, Canadian 4-H Council, 930 Carling Ave., Building #26, Ottawa ON K1A 0C6 (must be received at Canadian 4-H

Council on or before Feb. 15, 2006, via email or Canada Post, post-marked no later than Feb. 15). Winners will be notified by Feb. 28, 2006.

4-H is one of the country's longest-running and most respected youth organizations, offering fun, excitement and learning for youth in communities large and small across Canada. More than 9,500 trained volunteer Leaders help 31,000 4-H Members develop self-confidence and learn a wide variety of skills through hands-on project work. The Canadian 4-H Council was established in 1933 to co-ordinate all national 4-H affairs. The Council also runs national activities, including scholarships, conferences, seminars, and exchanges.

Reminders from your local library

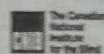
BY DIAPHINE SCHURER
Librarian

Over the holiday season, a person tends to forget about the usual routines. Now it's back to normal, and time to check your house for leftover (and overdue) library materials and your wallet for the renewal date on your library card. There may be people waiting for that library book or video that you borrowed before the Christmas break, and if your library card has expired, you'll be missing out on all the new magazines and incoming hot list books until you get it renewed.

See you soon at Elk Point Public Library - and a belated Happy New Year to all of you we haven't seen in 2006.

Is your central vision becoming blurred?

Macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness in Canada. If you experience any change in vision, consult your eye-care professional.



1-800-513-7813
www.cnib.ca

CHURCH SERVICES

Elk Point Baptist Church
5705 - 49 St., Elk Point
Pastor Jim MacLellan
Pastor Jason Goulet
Family Worship Service
Sundays - 10 a.m.
Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.
Call 724-4194 for more information
or see our Website:
geocities.com/elkptbapt

St. Vladimirs' Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Elk Point
For service times, call 645-5156.
St. Paul or 724-4351, Elk Point.

United Church of Canada
4822 - 50 Ave., Elk Point
Rev. Jope Langejans, 724-3616
Services - Sunday 10 a.m.
"Come and be Welcomed - Come and Be Nurtured"

Christian Community Church of Elk Point
53 St. and Railway Avenue
Phone 724-4039 or 724-2640

Our Aim:
"To Know, Apply and Share the Power of Christ"
Worship Service - Sunday 10 a.m.
Sunday School - 10 a.m.

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church
Father Zbign

Saturday or Sunday Mass.
See church door for schedule.
Mass 1st Tuesday of the month at Parkview Extended Care, 4 p.m.
Mass and Holy Hour
1st Friday of the month at 7 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church of Lea Park
Weekly Services, 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion 2nd and 3rd Sundays

Bible Fellowship Church Clondonald
Services held every Sunday at 11 a.m.

Thank You BOYKO, Sophie

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the many people who sent flowers, food, messages of condolence and the donations in memory of our mother. We also recognize the excellent care and attention given to our mother by Dr. Woytyuk, nurses and all the 2nd floor staff at St. Therese Hospital.

Thank you to all the staff at Extendicare who cared for our mother.

Also thank you to John Roman Dobrianski and to Mary Bezpaliko and Kay and John Buryn for the funeral service.

A special thank you to Fr. Roman Dobrianski and to Mary Bezpaliko and Kay and John Buryn for the funeral service.

We also thank the Centennial Senior Citizens Centre for providing the lunch.

Orest, Maryanne, Lucille

Thank You

YONELIUNAS, Peter

The Yoneliunas family would like to thank all our friends and neighbors who helped us through this difficult time. Thank you for lifting our spirits with your words of sympathy, gifts of food, flowers and donations, and for sharing your memories of Peter. Thank you to the pallbearers, the staff at the Senior Citizens Centre for preparing the lunch, and a special thanks to Yewchin's Funeral Chapel for all their help.

Yoneliunas Family

In Memoriam

BERG, Leonard

Sept. 28, 1917-Jan. 23, 2002

In memory of Leonard Berg, who passed away January 23, 2002.

Deep in our hearts
Your memory is kept.
To love and to cherish
To never forget.

From wife Norma, children: Blaine, Harvey, Howard, Ingrid & Vali, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sisters: Elsa Creamer and Vera Thir.

Fish farming courses coming soon

COPY SUBMITTED

Raising Fish in Your Pond or Dugout is a course for anyone interested in raising fish for recreational purposes. It provides an overview of requirements when raising fish, including selecting and constructing a fishpond, licensing, purchasing fish and supplies, feeding, water quality, aeration and disease, predator and weed control. As well as classroom instruction, participants will have an opportunity to view various fish culture and aeration equipment, and speak with industry representatives, such as fingerling suppliers, licensing inspectors and staff from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's aquaculture section. The course is being held in six locations throughout the province during February and March of 2006. All sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

Participants will have an opportunity to view various fish culture and aeration equipment, and speak with industry representatives, such as fingerling suppliers, licensing inspectors and staff from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development's aquaculture section. The course is being held in six locations throughout the province during February and March of 2006. All sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

■ February 7 Stony Plain (780) 968-8467
■ February 8 Stettler (403) 742-4441
■ February 21 Leduc (780) 955-4593 or (780) 955-3555
■ February 22 Westlock (780) 349-3346

Registration cost for the course is \$25 per person (includes GST and a course

manual). Seating is limited, so early registration is recommended. Any courses having less than 10 paid pre-registrants will be cancelled. For further information, contact Eric Hutchings, Alberta Agriculture, (403) 381-5574, Lethbridge.



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1 AUCTION

LEARN TO BE an auctioneer. Western Canadian School of Auctioneering next course March 6. Free brochure. 1-888-954-3891.

FABRICATING SHOP AUCTION, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 10 a.m. Saw, brake, shear, welding, steel, tools, punch presses. Details: www.foothillsauctions.com. 780-922-6090.

UNRESERVED HARDWOOD/Laminate Flooring, Sunday, Jan. 29/06, 1 p.m., Cold Lake, Alberta. Exhibition Park. Lindstrand Auctions, Camrose, Alberta. 1-800-251-1441; www.lindstranductions.com.

ANTIQUe, COLLECTIBLE and Top Quality Glassware Auction, Sunday, Jan. 22, 11 a.m., Olds Legion. Lladro, Fenton, Shelly, Chintz, cast toys, Aladdin lamps, oak and East-lake furniture, Hoosier, Sherman jewelry. Pilgrim Auction, 403-556-8555; www.auctionsales.ca.

2 AUTO

1992 DODGE DAKOTA - Ext cab, 4x4, white body and canopy, auto w/overdrive. 187,000 kms. \$4,000. Phone 657-2691. Jan17

2001 TOYOTA COROLLA - Loaded, 5-speed, 53,000 km, like new. \$12,900 obo. Phone 645-3184. Jan10

AUTO/TRUCK PARTS. Wrecking over 1600 vehicles. Engines, transys, lights, body parts, etc. All makes, models. We ship anywhere. Northeast Recyclers 1-780-871-0482.

CREDIT RANCH. Bank refused? Poor credit? No credit? Bankruptcy? Divorced? Are you presently employed? Apply today for a chance to drive away in the car of your dreams. Apply online: www.creditranch.ca; 1-877-687-7255.

NEED A TRUCK, CAR OR VAN? No credit, bad credit? We can help. Apply today. Drive today! Visit us at www.bccreditfast.com or call toll free 1-877-793-0620.

NEED A CAR or truck? Good credit, bad credit. Want a Visa? #1 success rate. Trucks - all models and levels of trim, specializing in one tonne. Delivery in Alberta; www.drivethenow.com or 1-888-501-1148.

4 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

OWN YOUR own store - Country Depot, TrueValue Hardware, V&S Department Stores - New and existing locations. No franchise fee - Earn dividends. Call TruServ Canada today. 1-800-665-5085; www.truserv.ca.

DEALERS WANTED. Operate your own loan company. If you operate an existing business then you may qualify. Positions are limited. Call 403-347-0786 or visit www.cashone.ca.

GREAT CANADIAN DOLLAR STORE franchise opportunities. With stores from coast to coast, we've been 'Working Together for Success' since 1993. Call us today 1-877-388-0123; www.dollarstores.com.

NEED MONEY FAST. Immediate approval. Credit, age, income are no barriers, debt consolidation, interim financing, home purchase, small business start-up. Consolidated Mortgage and Loans. Members BBB 1-780-452-5558.

A JOB at home on your computer. Up to \$493.51 weekly; Code e8; www.MyHomePCJob.com.

4 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

AAM LOANS. Money now. Over the phone approvals. Debt consolidation, first, second, third, equipment, mobile, builder. Interim. Anywhere in Alberta. 780-484-5834. Fax 780-484-7345.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Well established glass shop with many clients on Vancouver Island, BC. Owner retiring. Call after 6 p.m. 250-248-9323. \$165,000 stock included. Email: blconnerly@shaw.ca.

FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITY. Taco Del Mar, Canada's hottest new franchise, 2004 locations, opening soon in a power centre near you. Simple Baja California style, fully licensed; www.tacodelmar.com. 1-866-366-8845.

CONSULTANTS NEEDED for home based business. New to Canada in September 2005. "Signature Homestyles" Home Decor and Gifts. Ground floor opportunity. Call Lorna 780-871-0444.

6 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

START YOUR ONLINE Medical Transcription training today! Certificate program endorsed by employers. At-home and on-site job placement assistance. Contact CanScribe Career Centre. 1-800-466-1535; www.canscribe.com; info@canscribe.com.

BECOME an interior redesigner. Home-study course teaches redesign principles and how to start your own business. Instruction from professional redesigners. Free brochure. Call 1-800-267-1829; www.qcdesignschool.com.

YOUR LIFE starts here! Jump start your career with CDI College and graduate in months - not years! Business, technology, health care and much more. We have locations throughout Canada and classes are starting all the time! Call today toll free 1-800-510-9260.

MASSAGE THERAPY career program starts January. Combine home study with monthly or weekly tutorials in Edmonton for an affordable 2-year program. Excellent instructors, great materials. Student financing. 1-866-491-0574. Info: www.mhvicarsschool.com.

CLASS #1 tank truck drivers with off road experience. Catered camp job. Two weeks on and one week off. Full-time. Fax resume with references: 780-523-5833.

OWNER/OPERATORS paid 80%, average \$1.83/mile with own trailer, or 73%, average \$1.67/mile without. Class 1 long haul flat deck USA/CAN from BC or Alberta. \$3,000. hiring bonus. Tom 1-800-663-0099.

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN. Journeyman, 3rd, 4th year Ford experience with certifications preferred. Excellent compensation / full benefit package. Opportunity of a life time. Email: employment@kinglandford.com. Fax 867-874-2843. Hay River, NT.

OWNER/OPERATOR with highway tractor/truck needed to pull 81/2 X 48 step deck trailers. U.S./Canada freight. Extra \$0.70 per mile for bonus miles. Call 1-888-410-0495 or 1-877-842-3288.

ACCOUNTING FIRM in Central Alberta requires C.A.'s CMA's and CGA's interested in a career in public practice. Fax resume to Cookson Kooymann C.A.'s Lacombe, 403-782-3070.

6 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EXPERIENCED GLASS WORKER wanted for well established, growing glass company. Journeyman / apprentice desired. Automotive experience preferred. Carpentry / renovation experience an asset. Wages based upon experience. Fax resume 780-723-5663. Email: midwestd@telusplanet.net.

VOLVO CONSTRUCTION/Tigercat Forestry Equipment dealership requires resident mechanics for Slave Lake area, Athabasca, Drayton Valley, Ft. McMurray and Lac La Biche. Competitive wages, benefits, factory training plus much more. Please fax resume to: Strongco Equipment. Attention: Tim Desrochers. 780-417-2615.

JUNIOR EDITOR REQUIRED for one year maternity leave start a.s.a.p. Applicant must have reporter experience, good organizational skills, excellent community spirit. Also writing skills over variety of beats. Pagination an asset. Vehicle required with weekend rotation. Fax resume 403-485-6938 or email: publisher@vulcanadvocate.com.

ACCOUNTING FIRM in Central Alberta requires C.A.'s CMA's and CGA's interested in a career in public practice. Fax resume to Cookson Kooymann C.A.'s Lacombe, 403-782-3070.

ADDING EXPERIENCED Class 1 drivers and owner-operators to live in southern BC. Home everyday, access to world class recreation, education and steady work. Industry-leading compensation package and fuel protection reflecting actual costs; www.dtcchambers.com. Call 250-549-2157 or 1-800-473-2161, local 221.

PERSONNEL WANTED for fly-in camp jobs. Pipefitters, welders, insulators, apprentices and labourers. Competitive northern wages. Fax resume with references and a copy of oilfield tickets to 403-742-0502.

JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER required. Experience in residential and commercial service. Permanent position, \$28/hour and up depending on experience. Leduc, Alberta. Call 780-986-3388 or fax 780-986-4983.

HIRING TWO LEASE operators experienced with cattleliners. Alberta only, Alberta/Midwest US; top pay, will train right people. Steady work, regular time off. References: 780-523-5833.

MOODY'S EQUIPMENT - Journeyman and apprentice ag mechanic in Unity, Perdue, Saskatoon and Lloydminster. New Holland experience preferred. Fax resume to Jeff Hayes at 306-228-4511 or Richard Shyluk at 306-931-8803.

EXPERIENCED GENERAL farm / ranch employment starting immediately. House available. Wage is negotiable upon experience. Millin, Alberta area. Phone 403-378-4664 or 403-363-1729.

GROWING Ford dealership requires licensed or apprentice automotive technician. Ford training an asset. Training provided. Benefits, good working conditions. Top wage \$35. per hour. Relocation assistance available. Fax or email resume to: The Manager, SL Ford Sales Ltd. Phone 780-849-4419. Fax 780-849-3333. Email: siford1@telusplanet.net; www.siford.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

6 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PANDA TANK & VAC Truck Services Inc., Grande Prairie, Alberta immediately requires Hot Oilier Operator. Class 3 licence, First Aid, H2S tickets required. Oilfield experience preferred but will train right candidate. Wages will commensurate with experience. Email resume and drivers abstract: ed@pandatank.com. Fax 780-532-8729. Contact Ed Rye 780-513-2655; 780-933-9390 for further information.

PARTS MANAGER / Person required immediately. The successful applicant will have either dealership or independent auto supply experience, a journeyman parts ticket will command the best pay plan. Great working conditions, full benefits package, top pay plus working and living in the awe inspiring Rocky Mountains only 45 minutes from Calgary. Reply to Scott Laughington, Bow Valley Ford, 101 Bow Valley Trail, Canmore, AB, T1W 1N8. Ph. 403-678-6200. Fax 403-678-2806. Email: service@bowvalleyford.com

JOURNEYMAN TECHNICIAN. We require a journeyman technician to work an extremely busy shop. Great working conditions, full benefits package, top pay plus working and living in the awe inspiring Rocky Mountains only 45 minutes from Calgary. Reply to: Scott Laughington, Bow Valley Ford, 101 Bow Valley Trail, Canmore, AB, T1W 1N8. Phone 403-678-6200. Fax 403-678-2806. Email: service@bowvalleyford.com.

DEER LODGE Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts seeking enthusiastic people to join our team. Day servers, cooks, dishwashers, housekeepers, housekeeping supervisors, housemen. Please fax resume to: Administration, 403-522-4222. Subsidized meals and accommodation provided.

CK PLUMBING & Heating are looking for plumbers for commercial and residential. Fax resume 403-362-2028.

NEEDED NOW - Welders starting at \$24. - \$27. B-Pressure starting at \$29. - \$32. Permanent employment, clean shop, apprentices welcome. Collicutt Energy Services, Red Deer, AB. Fax 403-358-3208.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FULL-TIME

Dental Hygienist

Great wage, signing bonus, flexible schedule. Applicant must be a team player in a busy office.

For more information call or send resume to:

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Ph.: 780-853-6505 Fx: 780-853-6557

KWIKSILVER COIL-TECH LTD.

KWIKSILVER is an aggressive, young company based out of the Bonnyville, Elk Point and Lloydminster areas. We are looking for reliable and self-motivated help for coil tubing and flushby operations. We offer competitive wages, benefits and investment opportunity for loyal service.

If you are a focused individual complemented with a high degree of motivation, please submit a resume in confidence to:

KWIKSILVER COIL-TECH LTD.
Box 7616
Bonnyville, AB
T9N 2H9
Phone: (780) 872-1086
Fax: (780) 573-1282

6 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MULTI-STORE John Deere dealership requires experienced staff in the following areas: Agricultural equipment sales, consumer products sales, parts manager, parts person, mechanics and sales coordinator. Competitive compensation packages, signing bonus and moving allowance credit. World class products and a life style choice second to none. Contact Randy or Merlin at Ranchers Supply Inc. in Pincher Creek, Alberta. 1-800-565-0362.

ESTABLISHED RECREATIONAL vehicle dealership in Northeastern Alberta requires RV technician. Apprenticeship or journeyman positions available. Wages negotiable on experience and training. Resume: Box B c/o Vermilion Standard, 4917 - 50 Ave., Vermilion, AB, T9X 1A6.

AUTOMOTIVE SALESPERSON, Ford dealer looking for aggressive salesperson. Experience an asset, but will train. Excellent commissions. Benefit plan. Resume: Box A c/o Vermilion Standard, 4917 - 50 Ave., Vermilion, AB, T9X 1A6.

ATTENTION: Agricultural Parts, Service Technicians, Welders and Warehouse Personnel. Did you know the John Deere Industrial Equipment dealers pay up to 30% more in hourly wages? Why not join the Brandt Tractor team at one of our 5 locations in Alberta or 21 locations across Western Canada. Brandt has been recognized as one of Canada's top 50 Managed Companies for the past 3 years. If you want a great career with a rapidly growing and dynamic company, send your resume to: Brandt Tractor Ltd. Attention: Greg Davidson, 10630-176 St., Edmonton, AB, T5S 1M2. Fax 780-489-6891; cborn@brandttractor.com.

RED DEER River Ranches is hiring an experienced team player for the position of Cow Boss to manage all aspects of cattle herd. Jason 1-866-638-4226.

RAMCO SALES Construction Equipment Dealer seeking a full-time licensed tech or third/fourth year apprentice. Top salary and benefit package. Fax 1-403-627-2848 or rick@ramcosales.com.

6 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

2ND YEAR, 3RD YEAR, Journeyman Welders required for major oilfield fabrication shop, Nisku, Alberta. Journeyman shop rate \$27/hour + bonus. Fax 780-955-2780. Phone 780-955-7433. Email: safety@mastco.ab.ca.

TRAVEL AND WORK opportunities for youth. Enjoy children, work in Florida, New York, Boston, California, all USA. Salary, airfare, medical provided, plus more. Available in Korea, Spain, England. Call 1-902-422-1455 or scotiap@ns.sympatico.ca.

AGRIVENTURE - Offers internships for people 18 - 30 with agricultural experience to live/work with families in Australia, New Zealand, Europe. For details and cost contact 1-800-263-1827 or www.agriventure.com.

CHEAP TELEPHONE RECONNECT - Ring in the New Year! First month of phone service only \$24.95 + connection fee! Fast connections! Phone Factory Reconnect - Toll free 1-877-336-2274; www.phonefactory.ca.

INLAND CONCRETE Whitecourt requires a permanent full-time batcher/dispatcher. Previous experience with a ready-mix operation is a must. Relocation expenses, wages and benefits would be dependent on the individuals experience. Send resume to: Box 1290, Whitecourt, AB, T7S 1P2.

GOLF COURSE maintenance superintendent for 9 hole golf course in Hughenden, Alberta. Requirements: turf grass management course, golf course maintenance experience. April - Nov. Phone 780-856-2264. Fax 780-856-2267.

EXPERIENCED HD sales position in Brooks, Alberta, Alberta's Centennial City. Applicants need to be able to work unsupervised, very competitive wage, health benefits, company truck and bonuses offered. Fax resume 403-501-5665 or email: bnapa@telus.net.

EXPERIENCED PARTS PERSON required for immediate employment for GM dealership. Competitive wages and benefits. Send resume: SMYL GM, Box 930, Whitecourt, AB, T7S 1N9 or fax 780-778-3398.

FREE 128 page "Career Opportunities" Guide. Earn more! Get promoted! Train at home for a pay raise - new career - top paying job. Call Granton Institute at 1-800-361-1971 for free guide; www.grantoninstitute.com.

6 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CONTRACT CUSTODIAL/janitorial position. 30,000 sq. ft. food store, 7 days/week. Experience required. References, bondable. Questions? Jeff/Rick 780-853-5335. Resume: Eastalta Co-op, 5013 - 51 Ave., Vermilion, AB, T9X 1B2.

NORTHERN ALBERTA expanding automotive dealership requires technicians or apprentices. Willing to train; benefits, progressive pay plan, up to date equipment. Email resume to: westlock@telusplanet.net.

DOG LOVERS! Enjoy a healthy and profitable career as a professional dog trainer. Government accredited program - student loans and grants. Ben Kersen and The Wonderdogs; www.wonderdogs.bc.ca. 1-800-961-6616.

CJ ENTERPRISES an expanding, progressive oilfield company has secured large facility contracts and immediately requires: Journeyman and Apprentice Steamfitter / Pipefitters, B Pressure, Journeyman and Apprentice Welders, Track Hoe and Bobcat Operators Crew Truck, Knuckle Picker Operators, labourers. Ticketed personnel given preference but training available, including Safety and Apprentice Programs. Fax resume 403-742-0241. Email: cjnt@telusplanet.net. Mail: Box 1299, Stettler, AB, T0C 2L0.

BISON TRANSPORT requires long haul drivers with U.S. experience. Great pay, benefits and much more! Miles? Respect? Safety? Bison is the complete package. Call 1-800-263-1427.

ATTENTION: ARTISTS NEEDED. Make big \$ with your art talent in the "Hidden Career." A fun, well paying new opportunity; www.windowjeannie.com. 1-780-457-7109; cell 1-780-266-1122.

PHONE DISCONNECTED? First month only \$15. + hook up. Get reconnected with Easy Reconnect. We've been saving customers money for years. Call 1-877-446-5877.

NAPA AUTO PARTS requires an experienced parts person. Excellent wages, benefits. Forward resume to Box 1620, Fairview, Alberta or fax 780-835-3428. More info call 780-835-4971.

ATTENTION: Need to lose those unwanted pounds and inches? Lose 10 - 20 lbs. in 30 days! Natural. Dr. Formulated. Call Debbi 403-528-3325 or visit www.newbody.net (code 4030).

M.D. of St. Paul Foundation

Employment Opportunity Chief Administrative Officer / Manager

The M.D. of St. Paul Foundation is a non-profit, registered foundation dedicated to providing quality seniors and low income housing. The Foundation is located within the boundaries of the County of St. Paul, Town of St. Paul and Town of Elk Point.

We are currently seeking a dynamic individual to fill the newly created role of Chief Administrative Officer. Reporting to the Board of Directors, our candidate of choice will have a post-secondary education in Administration and several years of experience in senior administration and management. The successful candidate will also have strong communication skills and a proven ability in finance and accounting.

The successful candidate will be responsible to the Board of Directors and will oversee a foundation comprised of two lodges (133 units), six self-contained projects (163 units), 14 rural houses and rent supplements. In addition, the successful candidate will be responsible for the management of the four self-contained projects to include rent collection and day-to-day operation of the office. Salary range \$45,000 - \$60,000 to be determined by the candidate's experience and qualifications.

Interested candidates are requested to submit applications to:

M.D. of St. Paul Foundation
P.O. Box 983, St. Paul, AB., T0A 3A0
E-mail: mdspf@mcnet.ab.ca
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Competition closes January 20, 2006. The M.D. of St. Paul Foundation sincerely thanks all interested applicants; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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County ups funding

(Continued from Page 5)

"We're only giving them one year at a time, I think we should go with this," said Coun. Frank Sloan.

Permit waiver

Council denied a request from Haying in the '30s to waive the permit fee for building a permanent roof over the cancer support society's eating area.

Council was worried waiving the permit might encourage other groups to request similar things. Giving the organization a grant toward building the roof and still charging the permit fee would eliminate the issue.

Rodeo supper

A request by the North East Music Association for the proceeds from the county's rodeo lunch was granted.

NEMA said the proceeds would go toward its operations and it would provide entertainment during the lunch.

Each year, money from the annual loonie lunch goes to a different group, usually the one that applies first.

"Early bird gets the worm," said Coun. Tom Kurek

Mallaig staging area

Council gave \$9,800 in municipal sponsorship funds and \$5,000 in a municipal grant toward the Mallaig staging area.

The sponsorship is a provincial grant Alberta gave the county to distribute as it chooses. The money must go toward the project being applied for.

The completed Mallaig staging area cost \$20,297 and funds are required to pay the outstanding debt.

"We have in the past helped communities with staging areas," said Bouchard.

St. Paul Junior Curling Club

Council gave \$250 to the St. Paul Junior Curling Club for its Feb. 5 bonspiel. The bonspiel will include teams from Myrnam, Vermilion and Elk Point. The club is in its third year and has 37 members, ages nine to 16.

Library board grant

Council gave \$12,290 to the County of St. Paul Library Board, the same amount as last year, based on a rate of \$2 per capita.

Brush removal

Following their examination of roads requiring brush removal in December, council members agreed most overgrowth could be removed with a chainsaw.

Deadfall removal

Council gave permission to Ray Basaraba, living in Lot 15, Block 1, Plan 81221284, to remove deadfall from the municipal reserve north of his property.

Path to employment program

Fodness was appointed to the advisory committee of the Path to Employment program to help provide guidance and direction to youth participating in the program.

Rent

Council agreed to pay an increase in rent for leasing LSD 5-30-60-10-W4 from Clayton Cutshaw for a communication tower site and access to that site.

The lease began in March 2000 with an annual rent of \$500 and every five years, Cutshaw may request an increase in rent up to 10 per cent for the next five-year term.

Land auction

The date for public auction of lands is set for May 9, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

Attention Cattlemen and Suppliers ...

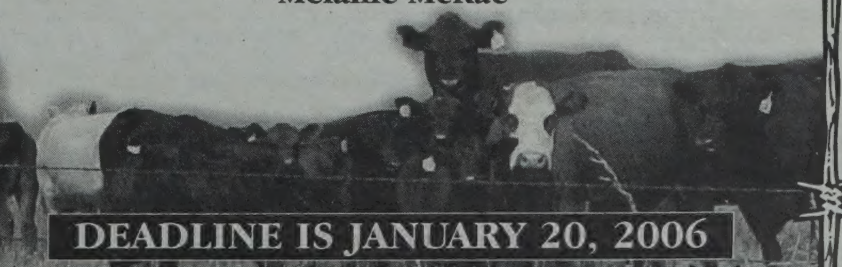
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Atom Avs put the pressure on Vermilion

Sometimes all it takes is good old-fashioned hard work, like fore-checking, back-checking and beating the opposition to the puck. Vermilion couldn't handle the pressure of the Atom Avalanche on Saturday, the force was just too much to hold back as it gained momentum. The Avalanche buried them, winning this game 9 to 3.

Trevor "the Kid" Ballas, packing a big gun, fired six bullets into the mesh before the game was done. Logan Becker wired one upstairs, and added an assist, Rylan Buffalo and Jarred McGilvery with one tally each, the rookie defense woman Lindsey Mac Donald assisting.

Although his shot blocking ability could use a little work, the puck actually deflected into his own net off his head, big Brett Ockerman playing for this first time on the blue line was looking great back there

at this position. With his size and long reach he could become a real natural.



doug
BASSETT
sports

Brayden "Mr. Scrooge" Vinge was just as stingy as ever, slamming the door on Vermilion every time they tried to put anything past him. Next weekend the Avalanche will travel to Dewberry to play in their tournament.

Over in Kitscoty on Saturday the Micro-Novice Tornadoes had just an awesome game off passing the puck to each other. Riel Lowry and Jewel Poitras scoring two goals each, Dylan Odgaard and Brodin Ference adding one each, and scoring his first goal ever, Hayden Gunderson.

The Peewee Avalanche are a young team that are still developing and have not won a lot of games this year. This past weekend they were on the road playing in a tournament in Marwayne against some tough teams out of Lloydminster, Wainwright and Meadow Lake. They have faced many tough challenges, but they never throw in the towel. They keep positive week after week. This coming weekend the Avalanche will be hosting their very own six-team tournament starting Saturday morning at 8 a.m. And you know it would be really great, if you could come down to cheer these guys on. Come for coffee, try a great breakfast burger, enter to win at the awesome raffle table and most of all support the team.

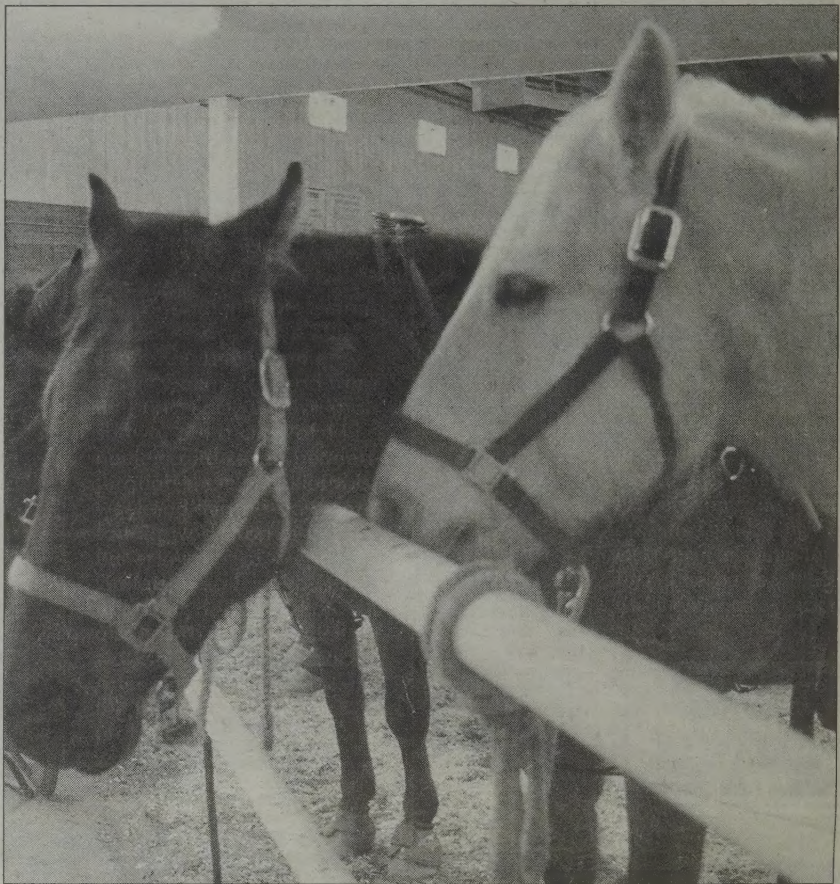
The Midget Girls Storm and the Bantam Colts both took this past weekend off.

Coming up this week: tonight the minor hockey team pictures are starting a 5 p.m. Also tonight at 6.30 p.m. the monthly minor hockey meeting followed by a short A.G. Ross Operating Committee meeting.

And now for the K.A. Campbell's quote of the week. "Empty net goals are for sissies." Last week's answer to - "If you jumped out of a plane without a parachute, would that make you brave?" - Montreal

goaltender Jacques Plante, responding to a question after being asked if wearing a goalie mask proved he was scared.

Do you have any scoops? Now you can email them to sportsound007@hotmail.c



Gossip straight from the horse's mouth?

What's the latest news around the C. G. Baker Memorial Arena? Perhaps these two railside pals shown at this weekend's team roping workshop were exchanging a little horsey information about the big Buffalo Trail Team Roping Association jackpot which is coming up this Saturday, January 21. The jackpot is one of a series held twice a month during the winter, with points earned at each session added up toward qualifying for year-end prizes. Come on down and cheer on your favorite competitors.

Announcement



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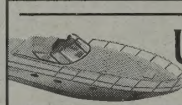
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